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## ORIGIN OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE SECTIONS OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE<sup>1, 2</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

A Section of Psychology operated within the Academy between 1919–1951, but was dissolved in 1954 after three years of inactivity. Geography was represented by occasional, scattered papers until 1932, when a formal section was organized. Anthropology likewise received sporadic attention until a section was organized in 1942. Eight years later this was enlarged in scope and the name changed to the Section of Anthropology and Sociology.

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<sup>1</sup>This paper is based upon reports given by the Academy Historian to the Section of Geography and the Section of Anthropology and Sociology in recent past meetings of The Ohio Academy of Science.

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The founders of the Ohio Academy of Science were largely naturalists, interested primarily in zoology, botany, and geology. These fields were prominent in the annual programs beginning at the time of organization (31 December 1891), and special sections were created for them in 1909. However, periodic efforts were made to bring other disciplines into the Academy program. In time it attracted medical and physical scientists, and still later the social scientists. In turn, sections for the medical and physical sciences were established. The origin of all of these sections of the Academy, as well as its activity in the professional fields of science education and conservation, has already been published (Dexter 1961; 1962; 1966). The social sciences were the last to be included in the Academy program. In due time sections were created for psychology (1919), for geography (1932), and for anthropology and sociology (1942).

Psychologists sponsored a section in the Academy for 35 years from 1919 to 1954. In the early years of the Academy there were a few papers offered that were devoted to animal behavior. However, these were written from the point of view of the naturalist rather than that of the comparative psychologist. The first real paper in psychology was given by C. Judson Herrick of Denison University at the Cincinnati meeting held in December, 1905. His report was entitled, "On the Present Status of Comparative Psychology." At the meetings held in 1907 and 1911, John S. Royer of Columbus read papers on, "The Psychology of Speaking." W. F. Mercer, from Ohio University, presented "Charts Illustrating Feeble-mindedness" at the 22nd annual meeting held in 1912. After a gap of six years, A. M. Bleile, on the faculty of The Ohio State University, contributed a paper to the program on "Reaction Time in the Blind and the Deaf."

At the 29th annual meeting held in Columbus in the spring of 1919, psychologists were invited to explore the possibility of forming a Section for Psychology. About 20 responded to this invitation with the presentation of eight papers. At the conclusion of the program, they signed a petition to organize a Section of Psychology with G. R. Wells of Ohio Wesleyan University serving as Vice-President in charge. The following year the first regular sectional meeting was held, with the reading of six papers. For ten years the annual program continued at about the same level. In 1930 and 1931, the program consisted of 21 and 15 papers, respectively, which were divided into two sessions, one for experimental psychology and one for applied psychology. In 1932 there was a special session on human development. At the meeting of 1934, the section organized the Ohio Association of Consulting Psychologists. This group met with the Section of Psychology at various intervals. During the 50th anniversary meeting held in Columbus in 1940, eleven special exhibits were on display in the field of psychology. Following this, the section dwindled in activity. After the lapse of one year, the section resumed in 1942 with a panel discussion on "Psychophysics and Applied Psychology." A few papers were presented during the following two years, and the affiliated group became known as the Ohio Association for Applied Psychology. The Academy held no meeting in 1945, and the Section of Psychology did not resume until 1947, when an effort was made to revive activity in a program for psychology. Between 1949-1951 a joint meeting was held each year with the Ohio Psychological Association. Response was not great, however, with only a few papers scheduled for the combined program. Following that time, nothing more was planned and, in 1954, the section was dissolved.

Geography, too, was represented through the early years of the Academy with occasional papers, but not until 1932 was a section organized. During the organizational meeting for the Ohio State Academy of Science, as it was then named, held on the last day of December in 1891, one geography paper was offered. This was entitled, "The Coal Supply of the World," by H. P. Smith, teacher at the Portsmouth High School. Geography was also represented at the first annual

meeting held at The Ohio State University on 29-30 December 1892. At that time J. H. Smith of Berea read a paper on "The Development of the Berea Stone Industry." Also at that meeting, a committee was formed to compile a collection of photographic plates, maps, and drawings to "illustrate the facts of nature in every department of science." Prof. W. G. Tight from Denison University was chosen chairman. Following this time, however, geography dropped out of the program except for an occasional paper scattered over some 40 years of time. For example, in 1895, Gerard Fowke of Chillicothe presented a paper on "Forests and Climate." In 1898 G. Frederick Wright of Oberlin College gave the presidential address, which was entitled "Geographical Teaching and the Geography of Ohio." At that same meeting, E. L. Moseley from Sandusky reported on the "Climate of the Philippine Islands." The following year three studies of a geographical nature were given. E. B. Williamson from Salem presented, "A Scheme for a Catalogue of the Streams, Lakes, and Swamps of Ohio," H. C. Wood explained "Out-Door Work in Geography," and A. D. Selby from the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in Wooster spoke on, "The Ecological Plant Geography of Ohio." In 1901 Gerard Fowke returned to the program to relate "Some Notes on a Trip to Southeastern Siberia," and the following year O. E. Jennings, of The Ohio State University, described the "General Climatic Conditions of Ohio;" in 1905 G. D. Hubbard of the same institution read a discourse on "Physiography and Geography." During the meetings for 1907 an address was given on, "The Nearer East—a Study in Social Geography," by G. W. Hoke of Miami University and, in 1912, N. M. Fenneman at the University of Cincinnati reported on the "Geography of the Balkan Peninsula." At the meeting for 1913, C. G. Shatzer of Wittenberg College explained the "Geographic Influences in the History of Milan, Ohio."

At the 42nd annual meeting held at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1932, a Section of Geography was organized, with Eugene Van Cleef, of The Ohio State University, in charge of arrangements. Over the past 34 years, this section has sponsored successful annual meetings, with occasional field trips to points of special geographic interest.

The Section of Anthropology and Sociology, likewise, was not organized as a formal section until recent years. There were scattered papers of anthropological interest through the years, given largely by field naturalists and amateur anthropologists. At the first regular meeting of the Academy in 1892, Academy President E. W. Claypole, of Buchtel College, read a paper entitled, "Notes on a Skull Pierced by a Stone Arrowhead." At that time Warren K. Moorehead was asked to speak concerning his work on the archaeology of Ohio for the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. He called attention to the importance of archaeological study in Ohio and of the need for preservation of prehistoric sites in the state. He was made chairman of a standing committee on archaeology. The following year when he reported on his study of "The Ambos Mound," located in Columbus and containing 27 skeletons with associated artifacts, he also reported as chairman of the committee for archaeology. He had sent out 2,000 circulars and 500 letters appealing for funds, but the contributions did little more than cover the cost of mailing. Moorehead was disappointed in his failure to raise funds for the preservation of archaeological sites and for archaeological research. This was difficult for him to understand since, in his words, "There were many thousands of Ohio people in the Anthropological Building at the World's Fair (in Chicago) who expressed a deep concern in the welfare of Ohio antiquities." He then offered to give a series of lectures throughout the State of Ohio to seek financial support. The following year a small fund was raised which applied toward his field research on the Ambos Mound. At the meeting of 1894, a paper was read by Seth Hays of Fremont on "Another Miami Valley Skeleton Including Descrip-

tion of Two Rare Harpoons." A second paper was given by Gerard Fowke, entitled "Norse Settlement in the Charles Valley." E. L. Moseley reported on "Hygienic Dangers of Modern Civilization."

At the annual field meeting in the summer of 1895, Prof. Moseley arranged for a visit to an old flint quarry and an Indian arrow factory south of Sandusky. This was conducted by Delos Ransom. Four papers of anthropological interest were given during the meeting of 1896. Most of the annual meetings from that time included one or two reports on archaeological research in Ohio. In addition to those persons already mentioned, occasional reports were given by Elmer E. Masterman, W. C. Mills, Joshua Lindahl, and J. H. Todd. Joshua Lindahl of Cincinnati, as president of the Academy in 1900, spoke on his observations of the Eskimo in Danish Greenland. In 1904 when the program committee was enlarged in size and scope, J. H. Todd of Wooster was elected to represent the field of anthropology. Several papers each subsequent year were given in this field, particularly by W. C. Mills, J. H. Todd, F. D. Snyder, C. L. Martzloff, and A. B. Coover. However, when the new constitution of 1908 provided for formal sections, none was created for anthropology at that time, and this field was not represented at the meetings again until the quarter centennial meeting of 1915. At that time, G. Frederick Wright of Oberlin College reviewed "Ohio Contributions to Archaeology," as part of a symposium on "Review of Scientific Progress in the Quarter Century."

Following 1915, contributions to the annual meetings by anthropologists were few and far between. Occasional papers were given by W. C. Mills (The Ohio State University), H. A. Albyn, and H. C. Shetrone (Ohio State Museum) on their studies of Ohio earthworks. In 1923 a field trip was conducted to visit the earthworks near Newark and the flint quarries at Flint Ridge under the guidance of Dr. Mills. In 1931, at a joint meeting of the Academies of Science of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, held at Miami University, F. O. Grover of Oberlin College gave an evening lecture on "Traces of Early Man in Western Europe." At the meeting in 1937, Dr. T. Wingate Todd of Western Reserve University gave an invitational address on, "Certificates of Growing up and Growing Old," and a paper was given by Dr. Shetrone on "The Ethnobotany of the Ohio Aborigines."

A Section of Anthropology was created at the 52nd annual meeting held in 1942. While only 17 charter members signed the petition (eight less than required by the Constitution), permission was nevertheless granted to initiate this new section. Dr. Shetrone was elected temporary chairman. Nine papers were presented to the group. Two years later Dr. Shetrone gave the presidential address to the Academy entitled, "A Unique Prehistoric Irrigation Project." At that time the group began to encourage sociologists to unite with this section, and a symposium was held on "Racial Problems." In 1946 another symposium was organized on "Social Prejudices or Stereotypes." In 1950 the scope of the section was enlarged, and the name was changed to the Section of Anthropology and Sociology. For its meeting of 1953, the section met jointly with the Ohio Folklore Society. While this section has never had many members, it has nevertheless maintained an annual program for the reading of research papers.

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